Transfer of Technology to MUL

*295. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Suzuki Motor Company has agreed to transfer all its latest technologies of small and medium sized cars to Maruti Udyog Limited as a result of out-of-court settlement; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Suzuki Motor Corporation has assured all effort and full support for promoting the transfer of new technology and introduction of new models to ensure that Maruti not only continues to be a market leader in India but also tries to compete successfully with other global car manufacturers in foreign markets world-wide. A technical team of MUL has recently visited SMC, Japan in this regard.

Performance of Eastern Coalfields Limited

*296. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of eastern Coalfields Limited, a Coal India limited subsidiary, has been continuously unsatisfactory and it is facing crisis;

(b) if so, whether the Govt, have critically examined the performance of Eastern Coalfields Limited to identify the reasons for its continuous dismal performance;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what measures are contemplated by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF *1* MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DR. RAY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Performan of ECL has been critically examined ai. the reasons for its poor performance ar as under:—

(i) Surplus manpower leading to high cost of production.

(ii) large number of uneconomic udnerground mines. Moreover most of the mines are old with extensive underground working not readily amenable to large scale mechanisation.

(iii) High rates of cess levied by Government of West Bengal makes the coal uncompetitive.

(iv) Limited scope for open cast mining.

(v) Adverse geo-mining conditions leading to low production in the underground mines.

(vi) thickly populated areas in the mining zones adversely affect operations.

(vii) Non-availability of land.

(viii) law and order problem and industrial unrest.

(d) The following steps are contemplated for the rehabilitation of ECL:

(i) Reduction, rationalisation and redeployment of manpower through Voluntary Retirement Scheme and other means.

(ii) Increase in productivity of men and machines.

(iii) Economy in expenditure

(iv) Merger of areas and reduction of agents offices

(v) Closure of heavily loss making mines.

(vi) Optimizaiton of despatch of coal and additional revenue generation.